



19<sup>th</sup> February 2021

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## LUXEMBOURGISH EFSA FOCAL POINT NEWSLETTER

# 21-3

### Calls

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#### ***EFSA grant - Call for proposals - Entrusting tasks for “Supporting the Scientific coordination of the CONTAM Panel’s Working Group on mineral oil hydrocarbons in food” | DL 12/03/2021***

We would like you to support EFSA in promoting the call for proposals (grant) - **Entrusting tasks for “Supporting the Scientific coordination of the CONTAM Panel’s Working Group on mineral oil hydrocarbons in food”**- Ref **GP/EFSA/BIOCONTAM/2021/01**

This call for proposals aims to identify one organisation, to which can be entrusted the support of updating EFSA’s scientific opinion on the risks to human health related to the presence of mineral oil hydrocarbons in food.

Please find more specifics on the objectives in the call documents.

Please note that the deadline for submission of proposals is **12 March 2021**

The link to the EFSA webpage with the guide for applicants and relevant annexes of the call is available [here](#).

In case of any queries related to this Call, please do not hesitate to address them to [EFSAProcurement@efsa.europa.eu](mailto:EFSAProcurement@efsa.europa.eu) by indicating the Call reference.

[GP/EFSA/BIOCONTAM/2021/01 - Entrusting tasks for “Supporting the Scientific coordination of the CONTAM Panel’s Working Group on mineral oil hydrocarbons in food”](#)

#### ***Information session with MSs on the EFSA draft scientific opinion on safety of titanium dioxide (E 171) – call for Expressions of Interest | Deadline : 4/3/2021***

Following the mandate from the European Commission for an updated assessment on the safety of titanium dioxide (E 171) as a food additive, EFSA is finalising a scientific opinion. Ahead of its adoption and publication, EFSA is organising an information session on this subject.

With this initiative, to be held on the 16th of March (tbc), EFSA aims to share and present its approach in the development of the opinion, explaining the wide set of data used in the assessment and the criteria used for selecting and appraising the body of evidence. It will also provide the participating

experts with an opportunity to clarify any relevant questions and to debate on any information deemed pertinent.

If interested please contact us via [focal.point@alim.etat.lu](mailto:focal.point@alim.etat.lu) before the 4<sup>th</sup> March 2021

## Public Consultations

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### ***Public consultation on the draft opinion on the relationship between intake of alpha-lipoic acid (thioctic acid) and the risk of insulin autoimmune syndrome | Deadline 25 February 2021***

We are pleased to inform you that EFSA has launched a **public consultation on the draft opinion** of the EFSA Panel on Nutrition, Novel Foods and Food Allergens (NDA) **on the relationship between intake of alpha-lipoic acid (thioctic acid) and the risk of insulin autoimmune syndrome as per e received request from** the European Commission.

This document investigates also whether a dose may be set below which alpha-lipoic acid added to foods is not expected to cause insulin autoimmune syndrome in the general population or in vulnerable subgroups.

Interested parties are invited to submit written comments by **25 February 2021**.

We remind you that in case of more information or in case of technical issues in the upload of the supporting files, you can contact the Unit's functional mailbox: [nda\\_admin@efsa.europa.eu](mailto:nda_admin@efsa.europa.eu)

**[Public consultation on the draft opinion on the relationship between intake of alpha-lipoic acid \(thioctic acid\) and the risk of insulin autoimmune syndrome](#)**

## Events

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### ***ONE – Health, Environment, Society – Conference 2022 – SAVE THE DATE - 21-24 June 2022***

A [web announcement](#) has been published on the EFSA's website about the **ONE – Health, Environment, Society – Conference 2022** that EFSA is organising together with its sister Agencies – the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (**ECDC**), the European Chemicals Agency (**ECHA**), the European Environment Agency (**EEA**), the European Medicines Agency (**EMA**) – and the European Commission's Joint Research Centre (**JRC**), which will take place in **Brussels** and **online** on **21-24 June 2022**.

- Save the date web announcement on the EFSA website <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/news/one-health-environment-society-conference-2022>
- ONE – Health, Environment, Society – Conference 2022 dedicated microsite <https://www.one2022.eu/>

#### **Key themes and objectives**

- Examining food and feed safety from a broader perspective of sustainability.
- Exploring possible developments in risk assessment science.
- Reflecting on future strategic goals and directions for regulatory science.
- Contributing to new policy targets such as the EU Green Deal and its implementing strategies.

## Key dates

- May/June 2021: Opening of the call for abstracts for oral and poster presentations.
- September 2021: Deadline for submission of abstracts.
- January 2022: Opening of registration.
- 21-24 June 2022: Conference.

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## Publications

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### *SafeConsume: summary on risk communication policy surveys*

The Hungarian Focal Point published the results of the SafeConsume project's surveys about the European food safety risk communication practices, that was carried out in 2018. 76 organisations participated in the survey targeting official bodies conducting risk communication, while 42 NGOs took part in the second survey.

The most important results and conclusions about the networks and risk communication system of food safety authorities and non-governmental organizations are summarized in the enclosed document.

For more information on the results of SafeConsume, please subscribe to the newsletter of the project, for which you can sign up via the following link: <https://safeconsume.us4.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=2bff9f6f0861b11ad61d21195&id=f8aba48f6b>

### *Publication of the video summary of the International EuroCigua Workshop*

The Spanish Food Safety and Nutrition Agency (AESAN) is happy to announce that, as coordinator of the EuroCigua project aiming to characterize the risk of ciguatera in the European Union, they have elaborated a **scientific video about this emerging poisoning**. The video summarizes the International EuroCigua Workshop, organized by AESAN and held last October, and it also compiles the main findings obtained during the project as well as the conclusions reached and future actions to continue the research on ciguatera.

The video is available [here](#) and you can find more information on the project on its [webpage](#).

### *FSAI Guidance on Identifying Appropriate Peer Reviewed Scientific Publications*

The Food Safety Authority of Ireland (FSAI) has published a new document on "[Guidance on Identifying Appropriate Peer Reviewed Scientific Publications](#)". This document helps food businesses to understand how to assess peer-reviewed journals so that they can be confident that they are using the best science available for their food products.

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## EFSA Recruitment

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### *EFSA is looking for new experts and staff in the area of FCMs and others | Deadline: 10/3/2021*

The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) is looking for new experts and staff in the area of Food Contact Materials. Do you have expertise in one of the following fields?

- Experience in risk assessment of chemicals used in the production of food contact materials;

- Experience in analytical chemistry: chemical identification and specification of chemical substances present in food contact materials;
- Experience in organic and polymer chemistry;
- Experience in migration testing and modelling for food contact materials
- Experience in recycling technologies used for plastics and chemical engineering
- Experience in food technology

If you are interested to work with or in a leading organisation, have a look at the following opportunities!

Are you interested to **join as a scientific expert to a working group (WG)** assessing recycling processes for their safety or to carry out safety assessments of substances used in food contact materials? Check out the [call for expression of interest](#). WGs meet on a regular basis (monthly or bimonthly) by teleconference or physically in Parma (Italy). EFSA will, in accordance with its financial rules, bear the travel costs, daily and accommodation allowance of the WG members. A special indemnity will be paid for meeting attendance in accordance with its rules laid down in the [Experts' Compensation Guide](#). Due to the COVID pandemic, all meetings are currently organised by teleconference. The call is open until 15 April.

Are you interested to assist EFSA as expert in **carrying out preparatory work** for the assessment of applications for the authorisation of food contact materials and recycling technologies? Do you have at least 3 years of proven professional experience in the relevant scientific areas included in the call? Further information is provided in the [call for expressions of interest – “Scientific and Technical Support - Various Scientific Profiles”](#). Selected experts shall be remunerated at a fixed fee of 350€ per day worked. The call has no end date but applications received by April 15<sup>th</sup> will be evaluated and considered for incoming assignments regarding food contact materials and recycling.

**Are you looking for a new job opportunity** in the field of chemistry (analytical, organic, polymer or food chemistry), dietary exposure (food composition database, food label information) or technology (food processing technology, food packaging technology or recycling technology)? Are you passionate and motivated to ensure the safety of food in Europe?

**Have a look at the [vacancy](#). Deadline to send us your application is 10 March.**

### ***Strengthening food safety and consumer protection in Tunisia: Project start and open position of project manager***

The German Focal Point is glad to share with you updated information on the BMZ-funded project with Tunisia (Strengthening food safety and consumer protection in Tunisia) as well as the advertised position of project manager (based in Tunis).

Since 1 January 2021, Germany supports Tunisia in the implementation of the new food safety law in a BMZ-funded project. The 5-year project will be conducted by BfR and its sister institution the federal office for consumer protection and food safety (BVL).

The project pursues the goal of strategic and sustainable restructuring of the public authority landscape and at the same time the competence development of experts and managers by means of a combined analytical consulting and "capacity development" approach. Strengthening the official structures for food safety and consumer health protection serves as an important basis for increasing the production of safe food and for improving national health and consumer protection. Thus, the project is also expected to have a positive impact on the national labour market in the agri-food sector and the export of Tunisian products (with a regional focus) in the medium term.

We are currently advertising the position of project manager (based in Tunis). **The closing date for applications is 28.02.2021.**

German: <https://www.bfr.bund.de/cm/343/kennziffer-2728-2021.pdf>

English: <https://www.bfr.bund.de/cm/349/reference-number-2728-2021.pdf>

## Other

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### ***Survey on production and trade of fresh produce in Europe for One Health EJP TOXOSOURCES project***

The German EFSA FP was asked to share and distribute following link to an online survey (<https://surrey.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/toxosources-rte-product-trade-and-distribution-chain>) among the network of FPs. It is a survey **on production and trade of fresh produce in Europe for One Health EJP TOXOSOURCES project**. You are kindly requested to distribute the survey link to relevant associations and producers/distributors of fresh produce in your countries.

TOXOSOURCES (Toxoplasma gondiisources quantified; <https://onehealthjep.eu/jrp-toxosources/>) is a Joint Research Project within the H2020 One Health European Joint Programme (<https://onehealthjep.eu/>) with funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation program (Grant Agreement No 773830).

TOXOSOURCES aims to address the research question – What are the relative contributions of the different sources of T. gondiifinfection? – following research needs identified by ECDC and EFSA.

Toxoplasma gondiis a highly prioritized zoonotic foodborne parasite but is so far not systematically controlled in Europe and globally. Consumption of fresh produce is one of the possible routes of T. gondiitransmission to humans,which has been little exploredto date. Thus, one aspect of the project is to investigate the presence of T. gondiifin ready-to-eat fresh produce.As part of TOXOSOURCES work packages 2 and 3, we are gathering data on the trade and consumption of fresh produce/vegetables within the European Economic Area. The data will be used to evaluate the possible role of fresh produce as a source of T. gondiifinfection (quantitative microbiological risk assessment), and to design asampling strategy for a multi-centre study investigating selected fresh produce for presence of T. gondiioocysts.The survey is designed to gather information on the most frequently sold fresh produce, in particular ready-to-eat vegetables,which are eaten raw without peeling. In addition, the survey requests information about the processing measures/steps that may influence the safety of the final product. In addition, producers and distributors will have the opportunity to collaborate with TOXOSOURCES and have their produce tested for the presence of T. gondii, if selected for the multicentre study.

### ***Launch of the World Food Safety Day 2021 campaign***

The FAO, WHO and the secretariats of the Codex Alimentarius Commission and International Food Safety Authorities Network will unveil this year's World Food Safety Day theme and visual identity.

You can find the recording of World Food Safety Day (WFSD) 2021 campaign launch at the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MGwsvR8dsIM>

Find more materials and information about WFSD on the campaign website: <http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/world-food-safety-day/en/>